The Extended Care Health Option (ECHO)

TRICARE Management Activity

Office of the Chief Medical Officer

August, 2005

A New and Revised TRICARE Benefit

CCTP

ECHO

ECHO Respite

EHHC

EHHC Respite

What to Expect

Resources

Custodial Care Transition Policy (CCTP)

- Bridge between ICMP-PEC and ECHO
- Currently covering both ADFM and NADFM
- Must meet the old definition of “custodial care”
- Accepted NADFM until Nov 04 (when last contract implemented)
  - Retirees remain as long as their needs exceed the HHA-PPS
  - ADFMs remain as long as they exceed the EHHC financial cap

ECHO Implementation Date: September 1, 2005

PFPWD

And

CCTP

Say . . .

HELLO

ECHO

Goodbye

CHANGE!

BASIC:

All DME
Hearing aids (ADFMs only)
PT, OT, ST

"New Benefits"

- ECHO *(revised PFPWD)*
- ECHO Respite Care
- ECHO Home Health Care (EHHC)
- ECHO Home Health Care (EHHC) Respite Care

ECHO Eligibility

- Active duty family members with qualifying condition
  - Moderate or severe retardation
  - Serious physical disability
  - An extraordinary physical or psychological condition
- Sponsor MUST be enrolled in service EFMP (if applicable) and show proof of enrollment

New

New

ECHO Basics

- Beneficiary Must
  - Use Basic Program first
  - Have qualifying condition
  - Must be “enrolled” in their service EFMP
  - Be “registered” in ECHO
- Monthly limit increased to $2,500
  - ECHO Respite care uses the monthly limit
  - Does not count towards ECHO Home Health Care

ECHO Basics

- Respite care
  - 16 hours per month *(dinner & a movie)*
- No change in co-pay for Service member
- No deductible
- Does not accrue towards the catastrophic cap
- Benefits must be pre-authorized by the MCSC
- ECHO applies to overseas and is managed by the TRICARE Area Office

Extended Home Health Care (EHHC)

- Beneficiary must
  - Physically reside within the 50 United States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands or Guam
  - Be homebound
  - Require medically necessary skilled services

EHHC does not apply to overseas

Extended Home Health Care (EHHC)

- Beneficiary must
  - Require frequent interventions…
  - Be case managed, including a periodic assessment of needs
  - Receive home health care services from a TRICARE-authorized home health agency

Extended Home Health Care (EHHC)

- Extended Home Health Care (EHHC):
  - Not limited to 28 hours per week
  - Provides additional hours of skilled and less skilled care i.e. coverage of home health aide services
  - Plan of care must validate the need for EHHC and define hours as well as type of provider to provide care

Issue to note:
Only available to ADFM
Available in 50 states plus District of Columbia, Puerto Rico,
the Virgin Islands or Guam

Extended Home Health Care (EHHC) Respite Benefit

- Specifically tailored for families with beneficiaries who have medical conditions that require frequent interventions by the primary caregiver
- Provides eight (8) hours per day for five (5) days
- Cannot be used
  - in conjunction with the ECHO respite of 16 hours per month
  - as babysitting or child care services

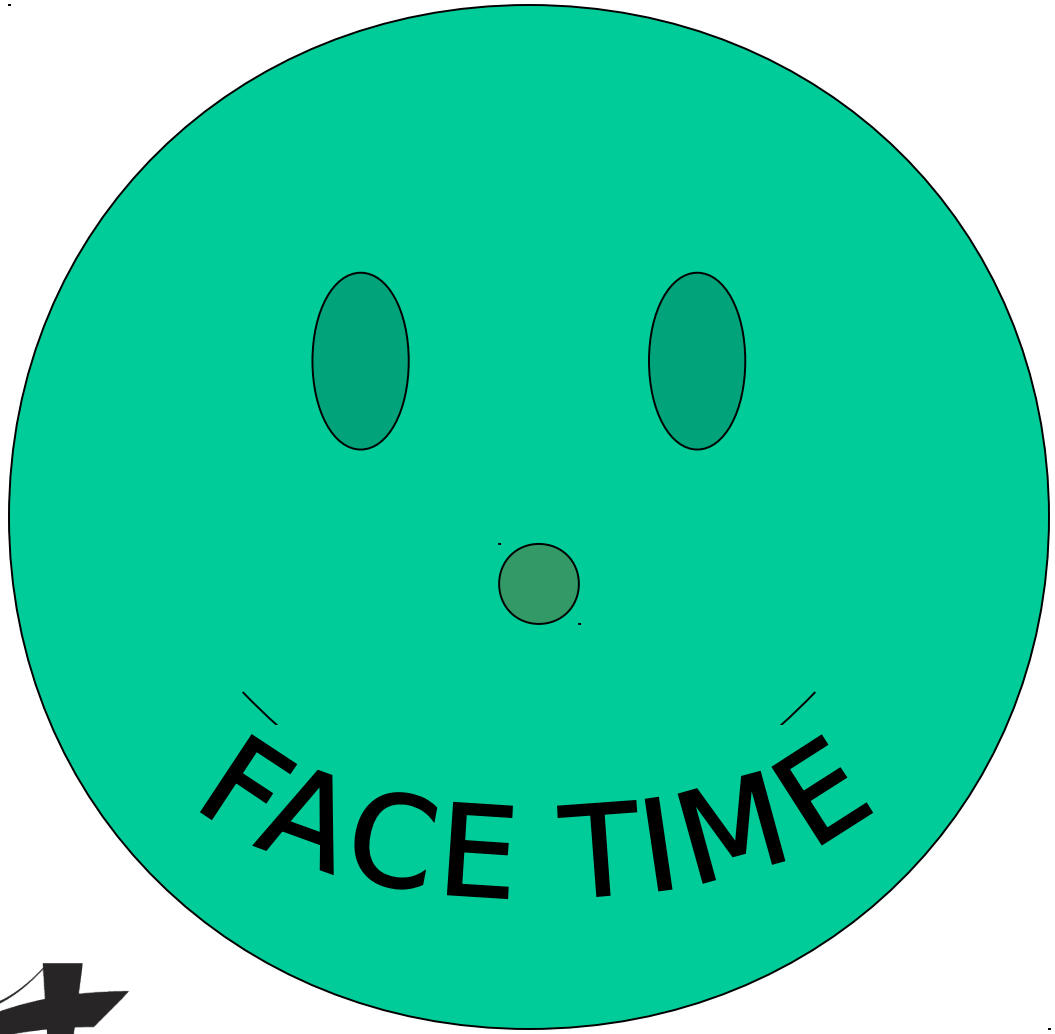
BCACs and ECHO

- Managed Care Support Contractor Manages the ECHO benefit
- Network, network, network
  - EFMP Coordinators, TRICARE Service Center Personnel, and Case Managers, Special Needs Coordinators at the TRICARE Regional Offices
- Enrollment and Registration
  - Sponsor must **ENROLL** in EFMP
  - Beneficiary must **REGISTER** in ECHO
  - Beneficiary must show proof of enrollment in EFMP

What to Expect

- **F**rustration
- **A**nger
- **C**onfusion
- **E**xhaustion

- **T**olerance
- **I**nnocence
- **M**ilitary
- **E**xplanation



Resources

- Program Manager
  - Mike Kottyan, 303-676-3520
  - michael.kottyan@tma.osd.mil
- Managed Care Support Contract ECHO Staff
- TRICARE Website
  - http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricaremanuals
  - TRICARE Policy Manual Chapter 9
- Military One Source
- Militaryhomefront.dod.mil
- Special Care Organization Record (SCOR) http://www.tricare.osd.mil/ocmo/specneeds.cfm